



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 6
1445 ROSS AVENUE, SUITE 1200
DALLAS, TX 75202-2733

JUN - 5 2013

Butch Tongate, Chairman
New Mexico Water Quality Control Commission
Harold Runnels Building (N2153)
P.O. Box 5469
Santa Fe, NM 87502-5469

Dear Mr. Tongate:

I am pleased to inform you that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has completed its review of the *Standards for Interstate and Intrastate Surface Waters 20.6.4. NMAC*, and is approving these water quality standards revisions. These revisions to New Mexico's water quality standards were adopted by the New Mexico Water Quality Control Commission (the Commission) after holding hearings on December 11, 2012. EPA initiated its review when these revisions became effective as State law on February 14, 2013.

EPA has reviewed amendments to the New Mexico's water quality standards at 20.6.4 NMAC, Sections 113, 121, 136, 137, 138 and 139. These amendments refine the aquatic life and contact recreation uses in an existing stream segment, remove waters from an existing segment and establish new segments for Nichols and McClure Reservoirs, the Santa Fe River, and Galisteo Creek. The enclosed Technical Support Document provides our detailed review of the water quality standards revisions. In acting on the State's revised water quality standards today, EPA is fulfilling its CWA Section 303(c) responsibilities. EPA's approval of a state's water quality standards is considered a federal action which may be subject to the Section 7(a)(2) consultation requirements of the Endangered Species Act (ESA). EPA has not yet made a determination concerning these amendments.

I appreciate both the Commission's and the New Mexico Environment Department's efforts in revising New Mexico's water quality standards. I also appreciate the cooperative and constructive way in which the Environment Department staff has worked with my staff during the process. If you need additional detail concerning this letter and TSD, please call me at (214) 665-7101, or have staff contact Russell Nelson at (214) 665-6646.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "WK Honker", is positioned above the typed name of the signatory.

William K. Honker, P.E.
Director
Water Quality Protection Division

Enclosure

cc: James Hogan, Chief
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